

Message

From: Mears, Mary [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2cbb571c57441b3bce690c0bfbcd2d-Mears, Mary]
Sent: 11/17/2016 7:16:38 PM
To: Simon, Paul [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=faf615b9bcf5434abd2db48766eb0e40-Simon, Paul]; LaPosta, Dore [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=cee7f06b0db24fd087d634a8a230888d-LaPosta, Dore]; Filippelli, John [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0aab332df8464ed3a78fec0ab18ecca0-Filippelli, John]; Guerrero, Carmen [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5ca33d0466a54184a34d8951c512d393-Guerrero, C]
Subject: IMPORTANT and For Consideration: Puerto Rico Landfills

Importance: High

See the two emails below.

Melissa Vargas in the Administrator's office has asked that we take a look at these options to see what we might be able to do to improve the landfill situation in Puerto Rico. She understands that some of these options may not be doable and she told me that she didn't at all commit to Green Latinos that EPA would take these actions, she only agreed that we would consider them. I told her that we need to get our R2 team together to discuss these before we discuss them further with folks from the Administrator's office and OLEM.

To that end, I propose that we and/or staff try and meet either right before or after Thanksgiving to have a discussion. I know it's odd for me to lead this effort, but Melissa kind of coopted me and I am happy to coordinate. **Please send me your preference** for either a meeting on Tuesday the 22, Monday 28 or Tuesday 29. I know many folks are out for the holiday, so I am guessing the following Monday or Tuesday may work better.

Melissa agreed that we should not hold up our response to Limpio - which I am striving to get out Monday to put some daylight between it and Judith's trip. I have asked for HQ input into our response by COB tomorrow and PAD would then get the final draft to Judith for her final review and hopefully signature on Monday.

Mary Mears

Public Affairs Director

U.S. EPA Region 2 (NJ, NY, PR, the US VI and eight Indian Nations)

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From: Vargas, Melissa

Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2016 12:07 PM

To: Mears, Mary

Cc: Guerrero, Carmen ; Grantham, Nancy ; Ragland, Micah

Subject: Time sensitive thoughts - PRL

Hi Mary,

Thanks for sharing the updated response letter to PR Limpio. I think it looks and reads well.

Just wanted to share that in early October I was able to connect with GreenLatinos and they provided some recommendations. I'd like to discuss them with you as I was able to with Carmen when she was in DC a couple weeks ago. I've listed them below.

It would be great if we can jump on a brief call this afternoon, since the letter is going out soon.

Also want to note that we have a meeting with GreenLatinos and the Administrator on Monday (discussing different topic), and would like to have some thoughtful direction on this issue in case it comes up.

Talk soon,

Melissa Vargas

Director of Public Engagement, OPE | Office of the Administrator
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Vargas.Melissa@epa.gov
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From: Vargas, Melissa

Sent: Thursday, November 03, 2016 1:31 PM

To: Guerrero, Carmen <guerrero.carmen@epa.gov>

Subject: Thank you and follow-up

Hola Carmen,

I hope your travels back home have come and gone in a safe and smooth manner!

Thanks again for fitting me into your calendar yesterday. It was really great to meet you, I enjoyed hearing about your background and thoughts regarding PR and others.

Per our conversation, I've provided a list of items GreenLatinos thought we could take into consideration. There are some that I think are more possible than others, but of course defer to you.

Potential Actions:

1. Meet with RAM week of Oct. 24 - attendees to include Representative Gutierrez, GreenLatinos, and EPA
2. EPA to conduct air test in PR landfills as they were conducted in Oregon, residents concerned about methane
3. Ensure EPA demonstrates every opportunity to address this issue to the PR Task Force/CEQ:
 - Any opportunities for funding
 - Difficulty meeting RCRA (Resources Conservation and Recovery Act)
4. EPA to create more comprehensive documents, laying out the Commonwealth's strategy for the landfills to either be closed or meet compliance. Doesn't have to be one-by-one.
5. R2 should emulate former RA Alan Steinberg's correspondence model with EQB.
 - a. Continuous communications that outline lapses in enforcement
 - b. Outlining primacy and FOIA records ended after 2014
6. EPA's Caribbean Environmental Protection Division (CEPD) Carmen Guerrero Pérez to begin conversations with Hiram Torres Montalvo
7. If budget and resources are a barrier for EPA, Ignacia S. Moreno (former Assistant Attorney General of the Environment and Natural Resources Division) shared judicial enforcement could be sent over to DOJ, would be taken out of R2's realm and moved over to OECA. (?)
8. According to PR Limpio, there are seven compliant landfills that have enough capacity to handle the rest of the non-compliant sites. The Non-compliant sites would be closed and then used as a transfer structure for separating and recycling.
 - a. (?) Costs - compliant sites have tipping fees of 45/ton, non-compliant 20/ton. No consequences..

In terms of moving forward, let's make sure to cc/bcc each other whenever we communicate with either GreenLatinos or PR Limpio - I think this will help us all stay on the same page and coordinate better. I'll also reach out to Mustafa Ali and see how his meeting with PR Limpio went.

I'll be out of the office starting tomorrow and back in on Wednesday, 11/09. Let me know if you want to connect late next week!

Thanks so much and hope you have a great rest of the week,

Melissa

Melissa Vargas

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